tracting the best talents availabe in the country. Some of these are:

— The scheme of flexible complementing/merit promotion is being introduced in all the scientific departments/organisations.

— Programmes have been launched through which core group of scientists are created in the country with all the necessary modern facilites required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

— Special schemes are being implemented to provide assistance to scientists for attending international conferences besides enabling younger scientists to attend specialised training programmes outside India.

— There is provision for Temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the schemes of scientists' Pool.

— A provision has also been made for the creation of super-numerary posts.

— New Scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Bio-technology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources Centre for Development of Telematics have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas. These are likely to provide job opportunities for the scientists, technologists and doctors.

— The financial allocation for Science & Technology activities have been increased substantially over the successive Five Year Plans.

— Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

(d) Question does not arise.

Strengthening of Indian Air Force to meet Pak acquisition of French laser-guided bombing system

2734. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's recent move to acquire the Thomson CFS Allis laser-guided bombing fire control system from France for F-16s supplied by US, which is considered to be one of the world's most sophisticated bombing fire-control systems today; and

(b) if so, what Government's reaction thereto, stating the steps contemplated by Government to strentghen the striking power of the Indian Air Force to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appropriate measures are being taken in this regard. It would not be in the public interest, however to disclose further details in this matter.

Detection of Central excise duty of Rs. one crore at Meerut

2735. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the initiation of and Inspector Central Excise Collectorate Meerut, evasion of Central Excise duty of Rs. 1 crore was detected consequent on raid conducted on M/s. Vijay Tractors Corporation and its subsidiary M/s. Vijay Engineering Corporation, Bijnor, for unauthorised manufacture and sale of diesel power generator sets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the case is yet to be decided by the collectorate, Central Excise, Meerut;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for delay of

over three years in deciding the case; and

(d) whether the Inspector at whose initiation evasion of Central Excise duty was detected has been rewarded under the rules and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The case of evasion of duty amount to over Rs. 1 crore was detected against M/s. Vijay Tractors Corporation and its subsidiary M/s. Vijay Engineering Corporation not only on the basis of a brief preliminary report submitted by an Inspector, Central Excise of Meerut Collectorate but also on the basis of investigations carried out by several jurisdictional officers and an intelligence report received from Directorate of Anti-Evasion.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The case is that of manufacture of diesel generating sets and parts thereof by the above two firms between the period 1978-79 to 18-4-1983 without obtaining any Central Excise Licence and their removal without payment of any Central Excise duty. Searches were conducted on the premises of the above two and other related firms on 21-4-1983 and goods valued at Rs. 5,84,700/- seized. The evasion of Central Excise duty detected is Rs. 1,03,98,683.53. During the searches voluminous records were also seized. The above two firms had desired consultation of the seized records before submission of their defence/explanation. This has been the main reason for delay in adjudication of the case.

(d) Rewards cannot be claimed as a matter of right and depend upon the merits of the case and the contribution made by the departmental officer. No reward has been sanctioned to the officer because the sanctioning authority does not consider him deserving of reward in terms of his contribution and conduct.

Release of properties taken on lease by Reserve Bank of India

2736. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of the Reserve Bank of India for the release of properties taken on lease requisitioned under RAIP Act, and taken on normal/nominal licence fee and compensation in Bombay;

(b) whether some of the properties taken by the RBI in Bombay for 3 years on compensation/licence fee have not been released inspite of requests from the owners;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the properties are in dilapidated condition and are not worth for living conditions; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps the Government is contemplating to take to release properties taken on compensation/licence fee and already used for more than 10 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not requisitioned any flat under RAIP Act. Hence the question of laying down any policy for the release of flats under RAIP Act does not arise.

RBI has reported that in the case of leased flats of which it is not a statutory tenant the policy is to release such flats on the expiry of the lease period if requested by the owners.

In the case of flats of which the Bank is a statutory tenant, decision taken by RBI is that keeping in view the acute shortage of accommodation on Bombay, no such flats should be released till such time as the availability position of Bank's accommodation improves, except in the cases of retiring personnel of Government, public sector undertakings or cases of extreme hardship.